

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-24. (Cancelled)

25. (Currently Amended) A method for identifying a candidate agent that binds to low density lipoprotein binding protein-2 (LBP-2), the method comprising:

contacting *in vitro* a candidate agent and an LBP-2 polypeptide, wherein the LBP-2 polypeptide comprises an amino acid sequence that binds to low density lipoprotein (LDL) and (i) has at least 80% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:7, (ii) is identical to a fragment of at least ten amino acid residues of SEQ ID NO:7, or (iii) differs by one or more conservative amino acid substitutions from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:7;
and

measuring the binding of the candidate agent to the LBP-2 polypeptide.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25, wherein the binding is measured by an ACE assay.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25, wherein the binding is measured by an ELISA.

28. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 25, wherein the LBP-2 polypeptide comprises an amino acid sequence that ~~binds to LDL and:~~

has at least 80% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:7;

~~is identical to a fragment of at least ten amino acid residues of SEQ ID NO:7; or
differs by one or more conservative amino acid substitutions from the amino acid
sequence of SEQ ID NO:7.~~

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25, wherein the LBP-2 polypeptide comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:19, SEQ ID NO:20, SEQ ID NO:21, or SEQ ID NO:22.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25, wherein the LBP-2 polypeptide comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:7.

31. (Cancelled)

32. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~71~~ 25, wherein the LBP-2 polypeptide comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:43.

33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25, wherein the candidate agent is a nucleic acid, antibody, metabolite, carbohydrate, glycoprotein, peptide, or non-peptide mimetic.

34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25, wherein the LBP-2 polypeptide is immobilized on a surface during the contacting step.

35. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25, wherein the LBP-2 polypeptide is expressed on the surface of a cell.

36. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 35, wherein the cell is a cell line transfected with an expression vector encoding a protein comprising the LBP-2 polypeptide.

37-66. (Cancelled)

67. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein the LBP-2 polypeptide comprises an amino acid sequence that is identical to a fragment of at least ten amino acid residues of SEQ ID NO:7.

68. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein the LBP-2 polypeptide comprises an amino acid sequence that differs by one or more conservative amino acid substitutions from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:7.

69. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein the LBP-2 polypeptide comprises an amino acid sequence that has at least 90% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:7.

70. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein the LBP-2 polypeptide comprises an amino acid sequence that has at least 95% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:7.

71. (New) A method for identifying a candidate agent that binds to LBP-2, the method comprising:

contacting *in vitro* a candidate agent and an LBP-2 polypeptide, wherein the LBP-2 polypeptide comprises an amino acid sequence that binds to LDL and (i) has at least 80% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:43, (ii) is identical to a fragment of at least ten amino acid residues of SEQ ID NO:43, or (iii) differs by one or more conservative amino acid substitutions from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:43; and

measuring the binding of the candidate agent to the LBP-2 polypeptide.

72. (New) The method of claim 71, wherein the LBP-2 polypeptide comprises an amino acid sequence that has at least 80% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:43.

73. (New) The method of claim 71, wherein the LBP-2 polypeptide comprises an amino acid sequence that is identical to a fragment of at least ten amino acid residues of SEQ ID NO:43.

74. (New) The method of claim 71, wherein the LBP-2 polypeptide comprises an amino acid sequence that differs by one or more conservative amino acid substitutions from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:43.

75. (New) The method of claim 71, wherein the LBP-2 polypeptide comprises an amino acid sequence that has at least 90% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:43.

76. (New) The method of claim 71, wherein the LBP-2 polypeptide comprises an amino acid sequence that has at least 95% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:43.

77. (New) The method of claim 71, wherein the binding is measured by an ACE assay.

78. (New) The method of claim 71, wherein the binding is measured by an ELISA.

79. (New) The method of claim 71, wherein the candidate agent is a nucleic acid, antibody, metabolite, carbohydrate, glycoprotein, peptide, or non-peptide mimetic.

80. (New) The method of claim 71, wherein the LBP-2 polypeptide is immobilized on a surface during the contacting step.

81. (New) The method of claim 71, wherein the LBP-2 polypeptide is expressed on the surface of a cell.

82. (New) The method of claim 81, wherein the cell is a cell line transfected with an expression vector encoding a protein comprising the LBP-2 polypeptide.